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E.O. 12065: XDS-4 12/19/98 (LANE, LYLE F.) DR-M (C-ENTIRE TEXT)
TAGS: MILI, CU, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MILITARY AIRCRAFT DELIVERIES TO CUBA

1. DURING COURSE OF CALL BY USINT OFFICER (GLASSMAN) AND VISITING EMBASSY MOSCOW OFFICER (MILES), DECEMBER 18, SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR (SELETSKY - PROTECT) VOLUNTEERED THAT USSR INTENDS TO OBSERVE SCRUPULOUSLY 1962 UNDERSTANDINGS WITH U.S. REGARDING "NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN CUBA. WHEN ASKED WHAT THIS MEANS SPECIFICALLY, SELETSKY SAID THAT USSR WOULD NOT DELIVER ANY MORE MIG-23'S BEYOND THE "TEN TO TWELVE" THAT ARE NOW HERE NOR WOULD IT PROVIDE NOW ANY OF THE "HIGHER NUMBERS". WHEN ASKED WHETHER TERM "HIGHER NUMBERS" REFERS TO MIG-25, SELETSKY REPLIED "YES". (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SELETSKY DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY SO, WE PRESUME THAT "HIGHER NUMBERS" WOULD ALSO COMPREHEND AIRCRAFT CARRYING MIG-27 DESIGNATOR.)

2. COMMENT: SELETSKY HAS NEVER BEEN PARTICULARLY WELL-INFORMED IN PAST ON MILITARY MATTERS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ABOVE MAY ONLY BE HIS OWN PERSONAL INTERPRETATION OF REPORTS PRINTED IN WESTERN AND SOVIET PRESS. FACT THAT HE VOLUNTEERED THESE COMMENTS, HOWEVER, MAY BE

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SIGNIFICANT.

3. FYI. DURING CONVERSATION, SELETSKY MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL REMARKS: (A) HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN CUBA NIKITA TOLUBEEV HELD TALKS WITH FIDEL CASTRO DURING RECENT MIG-23 EVENTS, (B) HE STATED THAT SOVIET GENERAL SERGEY KRIVOPLIAZOV-

CHIEF OF SOVIET MILITARY SPECIALISTS HERE--COMMUNICATES TO MOSCOW THROUGH CHANNELS SEPARATE FROM AMBASSADOR TOLUBEEV (TOLUBEEV RECENTLY TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS, AND MUST BE, INFORMED OF ALL SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITIES HERE), AND (C) HE STRESSED THAT CUBANS UP TO NOW HAVE SHOWN RESTRAINT IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA.
END FYI.
LANE

END OF MESSAGE

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